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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9861

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1952

RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0274

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0865

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0067

RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1047

RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0117

RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 0039

RUEHCHI/AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI 0357

RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA

RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI

RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC

RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 VIENTIANE 000400

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SENSITIVE

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DEPT FOR G, EAP/MLA WEYER, INR, CA/OCS/ACS/EAP, AND MED  
BANGKOK FOR USAID MACARTHUR, RMO, CDC, AND REO JWALLER  
PASS TO USTR (EBRYAN), USAID DCARROLL, AND HHS EELVANDER  
ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: TBIO ECON SOCI PREL KFLU LA

SUBJECT: AVIAN INFLUENZA: LAO WEEKLY REPORT MAY 3

REF: VIENTIANE 387 AND PREVIOUS

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¶1. (SBU) Possible Human Case: We have heard from the  
Australians of a possible human AI case in Houaphan Province  
(near Vietnam). Embassy's CDC representative is checking  
with the UN agencies and GOL on this.

¶2. (SBU) Announcing AI in ducks: The GOL finally notified  
the OIE of Dr. Webster's team's finding of AI in healthy  
ducks in Vientiane. (See reftels on initial finding.) The  
FAO regional representative, Lawrence Gleason, will be  
joining a World Bank Assessment team in Laos tomorrow and  
will take the opportunity to meet with the GOL to discuss how  
and when they will be announcing the AI finding to the  
public. He will also advise the GOL of a special emergency  
fund set up by the UN for donors to channel monies to the  
animal sector for AI.

¶3. (U) World Bank Assessment team: A 30 person World Bank  
Avian Influenza Appraisal team met with the UN, multi-lateral  
and bilateral donors today to discuss the terms of reference  
for their two-week mission to Laos (which will be followed by  
a trip to Cambodia to do the same). Embassy CDC  
representative is part of the Lao team. They will appraise  
the GOL's Pandemic Plan, with the hope of simplifying it;  
negotiate with the GOL which parts of the plan they will  
finance and set up financing arrangements over the next four  
years; and set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The  
aim is simplicity and reachable goals.

¶4. (U) The Lao-Cambodia assessment falls under the World  
Bank's Global Program for Avian Influenza (GPAI), which was  
agreed to by the World Bank Board in January (just before the  
Beijing donors meeting). GPAI is a \$500 million global  
facility. So far, only two countries have received funding  
under the GPAI -- Nigeria and Kyrgyzstan, with Turkey soon to  
be approved. Laos and Cambodia's GPAI falls under Bank  
emergency procedures (used for natural disasters etc.), which

aims to get funds moving relatively quickly. The funds include \$4 million in IDA (International Development Aid) grants; \$2 million in grants from bilateral donors put into a multi-donor trust facility (so far only the EU has contributed); and \$2 million in grants from the Government of Japan. The money will be disbursed directly to the GOL and replenished after monitoring, evaluation and review. Once the assessment team completes its initial work next Friday and reaches an agreement on an aide memoire with the GOL, then the team members will prepare documents for Board approval at the end of June. At that point, a final agreement will be signed with the GOL. The team leaders expect disbursement by August/September. Meanwhile, the GOL will be free to start funding projects immediately with their own funds to be reimbursed by the WB, if the project meets the criteria.

¶ 15. (U) The team leaders expressed concern about the GOL's Pandemic Plan -- especially the lack of specificity in the activities. The GOL needs to better define the who, when, how and desired outcome of projects. Once this is done, then they need to do a better job on the costing. The institutional arrangements are also a concern -- too many bureaucratic channels and too cumbersome a decision-making process. They would like to see the line ministries given more autonomy and flexibility. The team leaders also said they would be looking for mechanisms for coordinating among donors and with the GOL.

¶ 16. (U) The Ambassador thanked them for including our Emboff in the team and informed the team that our funds have already begun to flow and will be channeled through the WHO and FAO. We suggested that they look at already existing donor coordination mechanisms, such as the Global Fund. As with the Global Fund, the UN has offered to provide coordination support for AI activities. The Minister of Health has agreed

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to seek approval from the Prime Minister for the UN to do this.

¶ 17. (U) The EU representative stressed the need to coordinate with other donors who are not part of the GPAI and the need to clarify the role of the UN, especially FAO and WHO. He expressed concern about human resources being diverted from other important programs into the AI effort. He advised looking into local, regional and international technical assistance. The team said that the Japanese funds are specifically earmarked for training and technical consultants (who do not need to be Japanese). The Bank cannot, however, pay GOL salaries -- only per diem and travel. The EU also asked that NGOs be included as implementing partners. The team agreed that NGOs and the private sector can be part of the plan.

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